

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-05 /093 W
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EEWT US CU
SUBJECT: MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS DELEGATION VISIT. WRAP-UP

1. MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS DELEGATION HEADED BY LT. GOVERNOR O'NEILL (SON OF SPEAKER OF HOUSE) RECEIVED HIGH-LEVEL TREATMENT FROM CUBANS DURING OCTOBER 23 TO 28 VISIT. HIGHLIGHT OF TRIP WAS OCTOBER 26 RECEPTION HOSTED BY FIDEL CASTRO AND ATTENDED BY SIX OTHER CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, JOSE "PEPIN" NARANJO, OSMANY CIENFUEGOS, JESUS MONTANE, MARCELO FERNANDEZ FONT, AND HECTOR RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART). LEVEL OF ATTENTION FOR MASSACHUSETTS GROUP WAS MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT RECEIVED SO FAR BY MAJOR NATIONAL JAPANESE BUSINESS GROUP VISITING HAVANA THIS WEEK. RECEPTION FOR JAPANESE BUSINESS GROUP VISITING HAVANA THIS WEEK. RECEPTION FOR JAPANESE GROUP, NOVEMBER 1. ATTENDED ONLY BY CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ AND ONE OTHER CC MEMBER (FISHING MINISTER VELAZ).

2. AT MASSACHUSETTS RECEPTION, CASTRO PATIENTLY STOOD FOR FOUR HOURS SURROUNDED BY BUSINESSMEN AND SPOUSES, ANSWERING QUESTIONS RUNNING FROM RIDICULOUS TO SUBLIME. CASTRO EXPLOITED OCCASION TO HAVE AMPLE EXCHANGE WITH ACCOMPANYING AMERICAN PRESS (SEE HAVANA 464). AT ONE POINT, CASTRO TOOK LT. GOVERNOR O'NEILL ASIDE FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION AND REPORTEDLY AGREED TO THE LATTER'S REQUEST TO VISIT
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JAILED AND SICK CUBAN RELATIVES OF O'NEILL'S MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUENTS. VISITS WERE TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OCTOBER 28.

3. MOST BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED IN TRIP WERE IMPRESSED BY CUBAN GOVERNMENT BRIEFERS SUCH AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE FERNANDEZ FONT AND PRESIDENT OF STATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COLLABORATION (CECE)

HECTOR RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART. SOME BUSINESSMEN COMPLAINED, HOWEVER, ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY CUBANS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL FOREIGN TRADE ENTERPRISES.

4. CUBAN TRADE OFFICIALS, WHILE PLEASED WITH PERSONALLY AGREEABLE CHARACTER OF MASSACHUSETTS DELEGATION, HAVE REMARKED THAT GROUP DID NOT CONTAIN REPRESENTATIVES FROM LARGER FIRMS WITH WHICH CUBANS HAVE PRIME INTEREST IN PURSUING FUTURE TRADE.

5. COMMENT: ATTENTION GIVEN TO MASSACHUSETTS GROUP AND CASTRO'S OBVIOUS EFFORTS TO CULTIVATE PRESS AND LT. GOVERNOR O'NEILL ARE YET ANOTHER SIGN OF PRIORITY WHICH CUBANS HAVE ATTACHED TO EFFORT TO LIFT US EMBARGO.. HIGH AND MEDIUM-LEVEL CUBAN OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD USINT THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT PRESSURE OF US BUSINESS INTERESTS WILL BRING CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION TO LIFT EMBARGO. THIS OPTIMISM ABOUT POWER OF US BUSINESS INTERESTS MAY BE FACTOR IN CASTRO'S RIGIDITY ON SOME ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US (E.G. HIS RECENT REMARKS THAT HE WOULD NOT, FOR MEANTIME, RELEASE LAST FEW US POLITICAL PRISONERS, NOT PERMIT FAMILY VISITS TO CUBA, AND ONLY PAY COMPENSATION FOR US PROPERTY OUT OF INDEMNITIES PAID TO CUBA).

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Message Attributes

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